

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 03276 071156Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /084 W
-----043482 080927Z /23

R 071047Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECDEF WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3276

FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR LERNER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MILI, MMOL, NO
SUBJECT: RUMORED CANCELLATION OF PENQUIN MISSILE PROGRAM

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN IN DOD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CANCELLING THE PENQUIN MISSILE SYSTEM PROGRAM. NATURALLY WE IN OSLO ARE NOT AWARE OF ALL OF THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF PROCEEDING WITH THIS PROGRAM, SEEN FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE. HOWEVER, I THOUGHT I SHOULD SEND YOU THIS BRIEF MESSAGE TO EXPRESS MY DEEP CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL FALLOUT HERE IN NORWAY IF THE PROGRAM IS CANCELLED.

2. I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT THE NORWEGIANS BOTH IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND IN NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY IN GENERAL CONSIDER THE PENQUIN A TEST CASE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKE THE TWO-WAY STREET A REALITY. I IMAGINE THAT THEY ALSO BELIEVE, IN LIGHT OF YOUR LETTER OF LAST OCTOBER TO JOHAN HOLST, THAT THEY HAVE OUR COMMITMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE TESTING AND EVALUATION OF THIS MISSILE SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, AS YOU WILL RECALL FROM YOUR VISIT IN APRIL, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND ALL OF HIS TOP STAFF PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR THE US TO OFFSET SOME OF ITS SALES HERE IN NORWAY WITH COUNTERBALANCING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 03276 071156Z

PURCHASES. CERTAINLY THIS IS ONE REASON THE GON ATTACHED SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO OUR NEW BILATERAL MOU ON THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY GOODS AND SERVICES. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE PENQUIN MISSILE SYSTEM IS THE ONLY LARGE-SCALE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A COUNTERVAILING PURCHASE CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.

3. THUS THERE IS A LOT RIDING ON THE DECISION ABOUT THE
PENQUIN MISSILE SYSTEM IN TERMS OF WHAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY
TOLD THE GON ABOUT THE TWO-WAY STREET IN GENERAL, AND ABOUT
THE PENQUIN IN PARTICULAR. IF WE DECIDE TO CANCEL THIS PROGRAM,
WE SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE UNFAVORABLE POLITICAL
IMPACT IT WILL HAVE HERE ON KEY DECISION-MAKERS IN THE NORWEGIAN
MILITARY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT WHO WILL, I BELIEVE
NOT WITHOUT SOME JUSTIFICATION, CONSIDER THAT THEY HAVE BEEN LET
DOWN.
LERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO03276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-0709
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780786/aaaacufy.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e5c6479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2087465
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORED CANCELLATION OF PENQUIN MISSILE PROGRAM
TAGS: MASS, MILI, MMOL, NO
To: DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e5c6479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014